

THE

EARLY SUMMER 2018

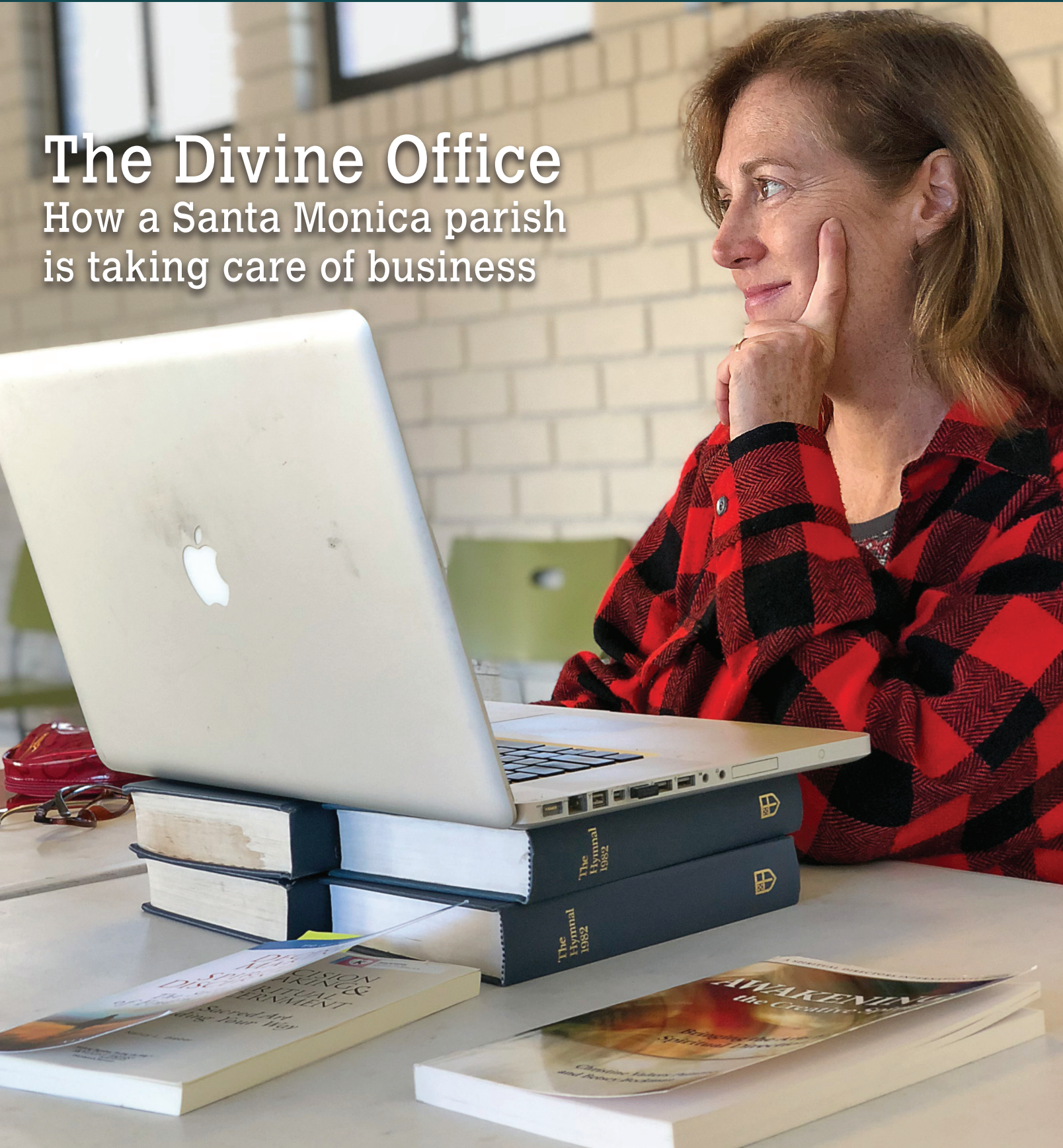
# Episcopal News

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## The Divine Office

How a Santa Monica parish  
is taking care of business







By John Harvey Taylor  
Bishop of Los Angeles

FEEDING HUNGRY HEARTS



## Arming ourselves with the power of love and justice

**F**or our celebration of Holy Eucharist at Messiah, Santa Ana on June 22, the morning of Orange County Pride, our liturgist, the Rev. Kay Sylvester, selected the passage from 1 Samuel about David going to war against the Philistines. In Sunday school in bygone days, it was the ultimate battle between good and evil.

So as preacher, I was conscious of a dilemma. I had just read a column by David Brooks of The New York Times in which he argued that in our society, competitive virtues are overwhelming cooperative ones. Religion, which transmits values in the ambiguous form of parable, is receding. *Mythos* — stories of existential struggle between light and shadow, from “Star Wars” and “Black Panther” to video games — is on the ascendant.

“[Competitive virtues] tend to give short shrift to relationships, which depend on the fragile, intimate bonds of vulnerability, trust, compassion and selfless love,” Brooks wrote. “They tend to see life as an eternal competition between warring tribes. They tend to see the line between good and evil as running between groups, not, as in parable, down the middle of every human heart.”

Assessing our deeply polarized society, Brooks is of course on to something. My dilemma was preaching appropriately about the *mythos*-drenched story of David and Goliath. Jesus would have wept at the big guy’s death. But the paradox of righteous weakness defeating unjust strength would have been right



JOHN HARVEY TAYLOR

up his alley. My solution was to reframe the story as a parable Jesus might have uttered: “The Kingdom of God is like a soldier who was too small and weak to wear his king’s armor and went into battle armed only with five smooth stones and the power of love and justice.”

The OC Pride service presented yet another dilemma. Brooks warns us against the dangers of tribal thinking. But as often happens when I’m among my fellow Episcopalians in the Diocese of Los Angeles, we 50 gathered for worship before Saturday’s parade felt exactly like a tribe. By and large our signifiers and unifiers are the prayer book, our love for God and one another, and our belief in Jesus’s inclusive, egalitarian heart. Within Christendom, we’re small but hearty.

We don’t agree on everything, of course. Soon we your deputies head to Austin for General Convention. We’ll debate issues ranging from gun violence and immigration to Israel-Palestine and marriage rite equity. Especially when we’re confident we’re doing what Jesus wants, our temptation will be to give in to us v. them thinking, to look for that “line between good and evil running between groups.” May we arm ourselves more or less like David, with the sword and shield of forbearance, love, and justice — and five smooth, gracious talking points. ☙

Above: The tribe wore red at the June 22 OC Pride parade.

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**On the cover:** Deborah Kaufman Giordano, a healthcare recruiter and one of the co-creators of The Divine Office at St. Augustine by-the-Sea Episcopal Church in Santa Monica, uses hymnals to convert a plastic card table into a desk for now, while money for renovation is being raised. **Story on page 10.** Photo / Katie Cadigan

# Housing Justice Task Force launched with 'Come Home' theme

From staff reports

To address the “moral crisis of unaffordable housing” across Southern California, Bishop John Harvey Taylor on June 19 convened a 55-participant diocesan Task Force for Housing Justice, bringing together a diverse representation of developers, bankers, architects, government officials, non-profit representatives, and faith leaders united in achieving solutions for people without housing.

Believed to be the first denomination-wide effort on this topic of a major faith group in the Southland, the new task force began its work of consultation and advocacy with opening comments led by the bishop. A total of 40 members — some representing agencies such as the United Way and Habitat for Humanity along with leaders from Episcopal Communities and Services and other developers — attended the opening meeting held at the Cathedral Center, which also will host the next scheduled meeting on Sept. 18, 10 a.m. to 12 noon with working groups dedicated to social enterprise, political advocacy, and “incarnational ministry.”

Lunch-time keynote speaker was Lisa Payne, director of public engagement in the office of L.A. Mayor Eric Garcetti and a former director of the Southern California Association of Non-Profit Housing. “I applaud what you are doing here to assemble expertise to turn this work into reality,” Payne said.

Under the theme “Come Home,” Taylor emphasized four focus areas, using a newly produced videotape (available on the diocesan [Facebook page](#)) to highlight the areas of “housing first,” social enterprise, political strategy, and ongoing direct services.

Excerpts of the bishop’s comments follow here. Taylor said:

“Southern California is experiencing a vast social crisis brought on by the high cost of housing, which affects every socio-economic cohort from the homeless to retirees who have to move away from

their grandchildren. Remembering that we follow a savior who had nowhere to lay his head, we’ve adopted the United Way’s “housing first” mantra as a gospel proposition. We don’t diagnose hungry people before giving them something to eat. According to the same principle, people do better battling addiction, mental illness, and job insecurity if they have a place to live.

“Using social enterprise tools and partnering with developers and non-profits, we can glorify God and sustain our parishes and missions by providing housing solutions, from winter shelters to affordable senior housing, on our campuses.

“It’s time to leverage the church’s political clout individually and corporately with city councils, boards of supervisors, and state legislators, calling on them to use our tax dollars to serve all our neighbors in need — including by demanding that government scale back density and height limits that make it hard to build affordable housing and require developers to do more affordable and permanent supportive housing projects.”



JANET KAWAMOTO

Bishop Diane Jardine Bruce listens as Bishop John Harvey Taylor addresses the new Housing Justice Task Force of the diocese, meeting June 20 at the Cathedral Center of St. Paul.

“One can’t get up in the morning without realizing homelessness is an issue,” said Canon Karen Uhler, junior warden of St. John’s Cathedral and an experienced trustee of Carter House, built to assist homeless mentally ill residents. “The issue also touches students and working families who can no longer afford the increasing cost of rent.”

Other financial aspects were underscored by Becks Heyhoe of Orange County United Way, who noted that government spends on average \$42,000 on services to one homeless person annually while it costs some \$9,000 yearly to provide affordable housing with supportive services.

The bishop encourages others to join this effort, or to share ideas, by contacting the task force’s staff liaison, Canon for Common Life Bob Williams, [bobwilliams@ladiocese.org](mailto:bobwilliams@ladiocese.org). †

## ‘Interdependence Day’ walking meditation set for July 1 in Echo Park

With the goal of strengthening interfaith cooperation in Southern California, the fourth annual Interdependence Day walking meditation around Echo Park Lake is planned for 4 p.m. on Sunday, July 1, with seven stations of brief prayers and meditations offered in the tradition of major world religions. All are welcome to participate and invited to assemble on the plaza of the Cathedral Center, 840 Echo Park Ave., Los Angeles. Coordinated by the Interfaith Cooperative of the Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles, this year’s walk will follow the theme of “L.A. as Metaphor,” affirming hopefulness and positive solutions to current pressing world concerns. Organizers for the event are the diocese’s three interfaith ministers-in-residence, Sable Manson of USC, Tasneem Noor of the Islamic Center of Southern California, and Tahil Sharma of the Hindu and Sikh traditions. Following the walk, light refreshments will be served inside the Cathedral Center with optional time allotted for group reflection. Further information may be requested by email at [interfaith@ladiocese.org](mailto:interfaith@ladiocese.org), or by phoning 213.482.2040, ext. 230. †





## California bishops call for end to separation of immigrant families

**B**ishops of the six Episcopal dioceses in California — California, El Camino Real, Los Angeles, Northern California, San Diego and San Joaquin — co-signed a letter issued June 20 by Episcopal Public Policy Network of California calling for an end to the Trump administration's policy of separating parents and children who enter the country seeking asylum.

The Rt. Rev. Michael Vono of the Dio-

cese of the Rio Grande and the Rt. Rev. Kirk Smith of the Diocese of Arizona have added their signatures to those of the California bishops

Donald Trump on June 20 signed an executive order ending the practice of separating children and parents, but concerns continue over the proposed incarceration of entire families, a practice that would conflict with current law forbidding the extended detention of children.

### Let My People Go: A statement on family separations

**W**hen large numbers of people cross borders to flee persecution, war, and disaster, they are considered refugees in the world's eyes, and many nations build refugee camps or absorb migrating people, helping families resettle and educate the children. In the United States, our tendency has been to treat migrants as criminals violating our international boundaries, especially at our border with Mexico.

In the past two weeks, the Department of Justice has taken the deeply troubling step of separating migrant children from their parents at border crossings and putting those children in detention facilities. This policy is intended to horrify and deter migrants. Approximately 2,000 children have been taken from their parents in the past two weeks and put in detention centers, including in San Diego.

As Christians in the Episcopal branch of the Jesus Movement, we are appalled by this practice of separating children from their parents. This cruel and inhumane treatment can cause long-lasting physical and emotional injury to children, according to the American Medical Association and the American Psychological Association.

In addition, it is morally indefensible. In Hebrew and Christian Holy Scriptures, we are enjoined again and again to love the resident aliens and strangers and treat them as our own, to extend hospitality, and to share our resources with them, for we recognize that all that we have is a gift from God. We also are charged with paying special attention to the most vulnerable in our community.

Children are some of the most vulnerable members of society, and they need their families' love as well as our care and attention. We Episcopalians join with many other people of good will across the United States in asking the government to return migrant children to their parents immediately and to allow migrants to process asylum claims or to unite migrant children with family members in the United States.

Finally, we call upon Congress and our Administration to overhaul our immigration system to relieve the suffering of all those who have been harmed by our policies.

Episcopal Public Policy Network  
of California

The Rt. Rev. Marc Andrus  
Diocese of California

The Rt. Rev. Barry L. Beisner  
Diocese of Northern California

The Rt. Rev. Diane Jardine Bruce  
Diocese of Los Angeles

The Rt. Rev. Mary Gray-Reeves  
Diocese of El Camino Real

The Rt. Rev. David Rice  
Diocese of San Joaquin

The Rt. Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori  
Diocese of San Diego

The Rt. Rev. Kirk Smith  
Diocese of Arizona

The Rt. Rev. John Harvey Taylor  
Diocese of Los Angeles

The Rt. Rev. Michael Vono  
Diocese of the Rio Grande

## Deputies ask convention to act on behalf of asylum seekers

**D**eputies from the dioceses of Los Angeles and California have written a resolution to General Convention calling for an end to the practice of separating immigrant children from their parents without due cause, and reiterating previous calls for comprehensive immigration reform.

The Rev. Canon Susan Russell submitted the resolution, endorsed by Deputies Sarah Lawton of the Diocese of California and Canon Jim White of the Diocese of Los Angeles to the General Convention office, which has given it the number D015.

Resolution D015 will be assigned to one of several committees for refinement during Convention proceedings. The committee may alter the language or combine the resolution with others of similar intent. If endorsed by the appropriate committee, the resolution will go to either the House of Deputies or the House of Bishops for initial action. If the originating house votes for the resolution, it goes to the other house for a vote. As with any resolution, both houses must concur.

The resolution text follows.

### D015 Support Keeping Families Together

*Resolved*, the House of \_\_\_\_\_ concurring: That the 79th (continued next page)



General Convention Deputies Jim White and Susan Russell pose with Jaime Edwards-Acton at a recent rally on behalf of immigrant children.



General Convention urge The Episcopal Church to support policies limiting the separation of families at or near ports of entry and prohibiting the removal of a child from a parent or guardian solely for the policy goal of deterring individuals from migrating to the United States or for the policy goal of promoting compliance with civil immigration laws; and be it further

**Resolved:** That The Episcopal Church reaffirm GC2009-B006 which advocates for comprehensive immigration reform.

### Explanation

The security of family provides critical mental, physical and emotional support to the development and wellbeing of children. Our congregations and agencies serve many migrant families that have recently arrived in the United States. Leaving their communities is often the only option they have to provide safety for their children and protect them from harm. Tearing children away from parents who have made a dangerous journey to provide a safe and sufficient life for them is unnecessarily cruel and detrimental to the wellbeing of parents and children.

Scripture calls us to welcome the stranger (Deuteronomy 10:19, Leviticus 19:34, Matthew 25:35) and our Baptismal Covenant calls us to respect the dignity of every human being. We pray for the children and families suffering trauma due to this inhumane policy of separating families at our border and urge support for changes to those policies and continue to advocate for comprehensive immigration reform. †

## Prayer service set at Texas detention center during General Convention

Responding to calls from Episcopalians across the church to act on behalf of families seeking asylum at the southern U. S. border, a team of concerned leaders heading to General Convention has planned a prayer service outside the T. Don Hutto Residential Detention Center in Taylor, Texas, at about noon on Sunday, July 8.

The planning team, led by alternate Deputy Megan Castellan, rector of St. John's Church in Ithaca, New York, is working with Grassroots Leadership — a local community organizing group in Texas that has held numerous gatherings at the Hutto Residential Center. Deputy Winnie Varghese, director of justice and reconciliation at Trinity Church Wall Street, is helping to arrange buses to the event.

“What is happening to those at our borders is monstrous,” Castellan said. “My bishop, DeDe Duncan-Probe [of Central New York] and I were discussing how we, as a church, could respond on Saturday morning. By evening, and with the help of enthusiastic Episcopalians across the church, the idea had taken shape and was moving forward.”

The detention center at 1001 Welch St. in Taylor is operated for Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) by CoreCivic, formerly the Corrections Corporation of America, a private prison company, and is about a 40-minute drive from the Austin Convention Center where General Con-

vention is being held.

Varghese says Trinity Wall Street hopes to provide buses for the event that would depart from the convention center at 10:45 a.m. Organizers say participants may also drive to the detention center. Parking is available nearby.

Presiding Bishop Michael Curry and the Rev. Gay Clark Jennings, president of the House of Deputies, have arranged for a one-hour delay in Sunday's legislative calendar to facilitate participation by bishops and deputies. The legislative session will begin at 3:15 p.m. CDT (2:15 p.m. PDT)

The event, which Curry and Jennings will attend, is open to all who are committed to praying for an end to the inhumane treatment of those seeking asylum in the United States. It has been planned not to conflict with the Bishops United Against Gun Violence event at 9:30 a.m. in Brush Square Park, near the convention center.

A former medium-security prison, the Hutto center has been the target of frequent lawsuits over issues including harsh conditions, poor food and sexually abusive guards. Originally a family detention center, the facility since 2009 has housed only female immigrants and asylum seekers.

The planning team, which includes several clergy and parishioners of the Diocese of Texas and the Association of Episcopal Deacons, is considering follow-up advocacy activities. †

—Episcopal News Service



## Sacred Resistance group joins rally at ICE's L.A. headquarters

At far left: Bishop John Harvey Taylor of the Diocese of Los Angeles addresses the assembly. At left: Members of many faiths and denominations gathered on June 21 — the longest day of the year — at the Immigration and Customs Enforcement headquarters at the Edward R. Roybal Federal Building in Los Angeles to sing, pray and protest against the incarceration of children and the separation of families who enter the United States seeking asylum, and to advocate for humane immigration reform.



# Bishops, deputies get ready to follow the issues at General Convention

Triennial meeting to take place in Austin, — land of live music and Texas barbecue

By Pat McCaughan

July 5–13 Southland Episcopalians will join an estimated 10,000 people — bishops, deputies, volunteers, media, guests, exhibitors, vendors, Episcopal Church Women and others — deep in the heart of Texas at the 79th General Convention of the Episcopal Church in Austin.

Along with counterparts from 108 other Episcopal Church dioceses in 16 countries, bishops and deputies will hear testimony and deliberate about hundreds of proposed resolutions, fine-tuning official church policies and positions on the environment, ethical divestment, racial reconciliation, Israel-Palestine, gun violence, revising the prayer book, the budget and a multitude of other issues.

They can expect busy days, with joint and individual sessions of both Houses — Deputies and Bishops — sandwiched between early morning and late night legislative committee meetings. There will be 95-degree daily temperatures with humidity peaking at about 88 percent, and opportunities for entertainment as Austin, the state capital, is also known as the live music capital of the world.

It will be the ninth such “family reunion” for Jim White, chair of the Los Angeles deputation, whose



CYNTHIA BLACK

Deputy Susan Russell and Bishop Diane Jardine Bruce take a selfie at the 2015 meeting of General Convention, which was held in Salt Lake City. Both will be returning to the 2018 meeting in Austin, Texas.

LGBT-rights activism involved him initially in 1997 at the 72nd General Convention in Philadelphia.

He has attended every subsequent convention, as a “Claiming the Blessing” exhibitor in 2000 and serving since either as an alternate deputy or a deputy.

His love of all things General Convention — anticipating renewed and new relationships, crafting church policy and experiencing huge worship — resonates in the city of about a million people whose unofficial motto is “Keep Austin Weird.”

“I just love it,” White says laughingly of the gathering the Episcopal Church has hosted every three years since 1785. “General Convention for me is like summer camp. I know, it’s weird, but I’m really looking forward to it.”

Angelenos will be widely represented in a variety of roles at General Convention.

## Bishops: Racial reconciliation and ‘holy work’

It is Bishop Diocesan John Harvey Taylor’s first convention as a bishop, and he will serve on the Racial Reconciliation Legislative Committee, which has been already been assigned several resolutions regarding funding anti-racism training and other initiatives.

After a conversation with Rochester (New York) Bishop Prince Singh, who co-chairs the committee, Taylor said, “We compared notes on his growing up in Chennai, India, in the shadow of the caste system and, in my case, 1960s Detroit as it grappled with the sin of segregation.

“In Los Angeles, our dream is to move beyond diversity toward a true gospel of understanding of our unity and accountability in Christ as a diocesan family,” he added. “That means owning up to our social polarization — by region, race, language, culture, politics, and especially social-economic status ... and we will be seeking resources (continued next page)

## How to follow General Convention

◆ **The Episcopal News** will report daily from General Convention, focusing on representatives of the Diocese of L.A. Subscribers to the weekly Update will receive the reports automatically. To subscribe, visit [www.episcopalnews.com](http://www.episcopalnews.com), and select “Contact/Subscribe.”

◆ **Episcopal News Service’s** team of journalists will cover the wide variety of legislation that will be considered at the convention, as well as other activities. To receive ENS’s daily list of stories, visit [www.episcopalnews service.org](http://www.episcopalnews service.org) and select “Subscribe.”

◆ The Rev. Lorenzo Lebrija of the Diocese of Los Angeles will anchor “**Inside General Convention**,” a daily TV broadcast beginning July 3, aimed at humanizing and illuminating the workings of General Convention in both English and Spanish. See the daily Episcopal News reports for viewing information.

◆ The **General Convention Media Hub** will broadcast sessions of both legislative houses, as well as worship services and other activities. Visit [www.episcopal-church.org/general-convention-2018-media-hub](http://www.episcopal-church.org/general-convention-2018-media-hub).



to aid that effort.

"I'll also be following Israel-Palestine closely, hoping we can speak both prophetically and constructively into the region's almost infinitely complex historical and cultural dynamics."

While he is "proud to represent the Diocese of Los Angeles, a progressive leader in many respects," he is also looking forward to fellowship, community and collaboration, and to continuing to learn from experienced hands in the House of Bishops ... "including our very own secretary to the House, Bishop Bruce."

Bishop Suffragan Diane Jardine Bruce said she is excited to again gather with Episcopalians from across the globe.

She is assuming the role of Secretary to the House of Bishops this year, "so my focus will be making sure everything is running smoothly for our time together," she told *The Episcopal News* recently.

"It is an interesting perspective, sitting on the dais versus the tables we normally sit at. While we are engaged in the conversations regarding various pieces of legislation, we have the added burden of ensuring everything is in 'good order', and that nothing is missed. It is holy work in this time together."

### Deputies: Steady, deliberate work at a dizzying pace

For many General Convention deputies, the pace of work can seem ploddingly slow and steady at convention's start, then shift into free-fall overdrive near its end, as committees race to move resolutions to the deputies and bishops for final approval before the last legislative day.

Southland lay and clergy deputies represent a range of experiences, from first-time conventioners to others who have attended for nearly two decades. Most are from Los Angeles and Orange counties. All are excited and honored to serve.

The Very Rev. Canon **Michael Bamberger**, rector of Ascension Church in Sierra Madre for 32 years, a second-time clergy deputy, is assigned to the Ministry Legislative Committee. He also is a member of the General Board of Examining Chaplains, which creates, administers and evaluates the General Ordination Exams for those seeking to be ordained in the Episcopal Church.

Bamberger plans to track legislation concerning marriage, compensation for the president of the House of Deputies (currently a full-time volunteer position) theological education and the ordination process.

"I'm excited about Bishop Curry's leadership," he added. "It will be fun to watch Bishop Taylor engage at his first General Convention. And Austin is a fun city, even in the middle of summer."

Canon **Julie Dean Larsen**, vice chancellor of the diocese, parishioner at St. Margaret's, San Juan Capistrano, and a first-time lay deputy, is "more excited than an eight-year-old planning for Christmas" as she prepares for convention.

"I have reviewed and summarized blue book reports, thought carefully about what to pack (bug spray cloths are essential), and studied the deputation list for people I know. Because of the humidity, I let my hair grow so I can braid it and put it up. Easy hair care is a huge reason to live in So-Cal if your hair is curly."

"I am ready to represent the Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles and will endeavor to post a report each night."

She aims to track Title IV (clergy disciplinary) legislation "because I believe there are many provisions which are biased or an anathema to our goals. For example, opening a Title IV proceeding for public comments does not promote truth or justice."

The Rev. **Lester Mackenzie**, priest-in-charge under special circumstances at St. Mary's, Laguna Beach, a three-time clergy deputy, is assigned to Legislative Committee 9, Racial Justice and Reconciliation.

Mackenzie, hugely popular as chaplain to the House of Deputies at the 78th General Convention in Salt Lake City, considers "a privilege" the invitation to serve in that capacity a second time.

He is pondering "how do I let us go deeper, for those who've been there before" while reaching those who are new. "It's a tightrope of putting, once again, Jesus as our center in the work we do and reminding us that we do this together. That we are one together."

Weighing themes of unity and love after Presiding Bishop Michael Curry's royal wedding sermon went viral, he wonders what they mean, "for us, as a deputation? For us, as a church" *(continued next page)*

## Heading for Austin



**John Harvey Taylor**  
Bishop of Los Angeles



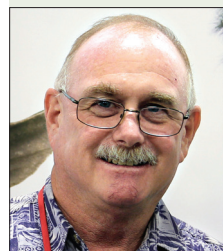
**Diane Jardine Bruce**  
Bishop Suffragan of Los Angeles



**Julie Dean Larsen**  
Vice chancellor of the diocese



**Lester Mackenzie**  
Priest-in-charge, St. Mary's Laguna Beach



**Michael Bamberger**  
Rector, Ascension Church, Sierra Madre



**Kathryn Nishibayashi**  
Member, St. Mary's (Mariposa), L.A.



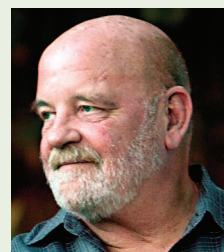
**Melissa McCarthy**  
Canon to the ordinary, Diocese of L.A.



**Susan Russell**  
Associate, All Saints Church, Pasadena



**Dan Valdez**  
Member, All Saints Highland Park



**Jim White**  
Member, All Saints, Pasadena



## GENERAL CONVENTION *(continued from page 7)*

... and what does the next phase for the church, the organized church, look like as we try to stay and live out the Gospel in a structured way, in church business, church structure and ecclesiastical structure?”

The Rev. Canon **Melissa McCarthy**, canon to the ordinary for the Diocese of Los Angeles and a second-time clergy deputy, plans to track Title IV revisions and follow up on resolutions involving racial reconciliation, church growth and climate change.

“The beautiful thing about not being on a committee, I get to visit lots of committees and see the work people are doing. I get the view the breadth of the work that’s going on throughout the Church.”

She also wants to focus on legislation targeting violence and weapons. She is looking forward to Austin because “it’s the only time that the leadership of the church is gathering in one place, being together as one. Relationships are formed. Connections are made in ways that do not happen if you meet electronically or not at all,” she said.

**Kathryn Nishibayashi**, lay leader and parishioner at St. Mary’s, Mariposa in Koreatown, a third-time deputy to convention, is assigned to Committee 14 — Christian Formation and Discipleship.

Nishibayashi, a third grade teacher in the Glendale Unified School District, en-

joys the “family reunion aspect” of Convention and hopes to follow several “hot topics” like prayer book revision and compensation for the president of the House of Deputies.

“There are going to be more joint sessions of both houses this time around focusing on Racial Reconciliation, Evangelism, and Creation Care, which were the identified priorities for The Episcopal Church in this triennium,” she said.

“I’m excited that this will be the first convention for Presiding Bishop Curry,” she added. “I would have been excited even before he became the breakout star of the royal wedding, but now I’m really hoping that the large gathering of Episcopalians can channel the energy, enthusiasm, and interest that was generated by his sermon into figuring out ways to reach out to the world.”

The Rev. Canon **Susan Russell**, senior associate rector for communications at All Saints, Pasadena, is a three-time clergy deputy and 10-time General Convention attendee. She is assigned to Committee 13, Committee to Receive the Report of Resolution A169.

“Having served on the Task Force on the Study of Marriage I’ll be certainly be following the work of that task force and our three resolutions — particularly A085, which would continue the trial use of the marriage rites we adopted in 2015 and take a step further to make them available in all dioceses,” Russell told The Episcopal News recently.

“Currently eight out of 101 domestic dioceses do not have access to the rites, in spite of language in the 2015 resolution mandating that bishops with jurisdiction “will make provision for all couples asking to be married in this Church to have access to these liturgies” (2015-A054). We hope to end what is de facto sacramental apartheid in those dioceses — excluding a percentage of the baptized from a percentage of the sacraments,” she said.

A longtime LGBTQ activist, Russell plans to monitor legislation about LGBTQ concerns, resolutions coming from the Special Committee on Sexual Harassment and Exploitation, gun violence resolutions and, “as a member of the Diocesan Sanc-



SUSAN RUSSELL

Canon Jim White, chair of the Los Angeles diocese’s deputation to General Convention, is pictured celebrating at the 2015 meeting of General Convention on June 26, the day the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that states could not restrict gay marriage.

tuary Task Force [I] will be advocating for anything coming forward on support for immigrants and refugees,” she said.

She supports compensation for the president of the House of Deputies, and is hopeful that “this will be the year we finally end the inclusion wars and move forward together as a church where the question of whether LGBTQ people are full members of the Episcopal Church is answered with a strong ‘yes’ once and for all.”

Also enthusiastic about the energy for evangelism and outreach under Bishop Curry’s leadership, she hopes “this General Convention will be one where we are united in our vision of taking God’s love out into the world — and challenging any powers or principalities that oppress or marginalize any member of the human family.”

And, she added: “I’m hoping to get some Texas barbecue.”

**Dan Valdez**, parishioner at All Saints, Highland Park, six-time lay deputy, is assigned to the Committee on Social Justice and United States Policy.

Immigration will be a primary focus of the committee, he said, “and we understand that there’s going to be similar legislation coming up in the Social Justice and International Policy Committee. So there is going to be a joint committee hearing scheduled.”

The other major topic the committee will take up during its work is gun violence, he said. “Especially since the last time we met [in Salt Lake *(continued next page)*]

### All types of services for all types of people.

Some people prefer traditional funeral services. Others prefer cremation. Some want an elaborate ceremony. Then there are others who don’t want any ceremony at all. When it comes to funerals, there are as many options as there are people. And we take pride in being able to say we offer them all.



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## GENERAL CONVENTION

(continued from page 8)

City in 2015], the first piece of legislation [A302] that came out of our committee was the church's formal response to the shooting in Charleston, South Carolina.

Resolution A302 expressed solidarity for the community and sorrow after a 21-year-old white supremacist killed nine African Americans at Emanuel AME Church during a bible study.

"We talked much about gun violence and here we are again, three years later. Obviously, we haven't spoken loudly enough. It's ridiculous."

Canon Jim White, a lay leader and parishioner at All Saints Pasadena, is assigned to Committee 10, Congregational and Diocesan Vitality, and is interested in updating parochial reports to include emergent congregations such as Holy Spirit in Silver Lake, where he attends on Thursday evenings.

"We have at least 20 people for whom that is their only church home, yet they are not counted. We need to find a way to include them," he said.

He also hopes the reports can be amended to include the "reach" and vitality of small congregations. "For example, there are places with 25 members who reach 300 people every week through their efforts in outreach and soup kitchens."

Israel-Palestine, Title IV changes, racial reconciliation, church growth, climate change and gun violence-related legislation are also on his radar, he said.

### Episcopal Church Women Triennial

Canon Martha Estes, a lay leader from Transfiguration, Arcadia, will be installed as Province VIII vice president/representative to the ECW National Board during the Triennial — the every-three-years gathering of Episcopal Church Women held concurrently with General Convention.

She will be among several others representing Los Angeles at the Triennial, including Christine Budzowski, president of the diocesan ECW; vice president Martha Watson; and United Thank Offering chair Diane Askren. The Rev. Julie Bryant, rector of Transfiguration, Arcadia also will attend as a delegate.

The Los Angeles diocese was represented during the June 20–24 Daughters of the King Triennial by co-presidents Gloria



OWEN HUMPHREYS / REUTERS



JANET KAWAMOTO

## The presiding officers of General Convention

**P**residing Bishop Michael Curry — pictured above delivering a sermon at the recent wedding of Prince Harry of the United Kingdom and American actor Meghan Markle — will lead the House of Bishops at General Convention. The house comprises all active and retired bishops in the Episcopal Church, which is based in the United States, but includes dioceses in some 14 other countries.

The Rev. Gay Clark Jennings, pictured delivering a sermon at the 2015 meeting of General Convention, is president of the 850-member House of Deputies.

The General Convention July 2–13 in Austin will be Curry's first as presiding bishop; he was elected at the 2015 meeting and took office that November. Jennings is serving her second three-year term as elected leader of the deputies. †

Flowers and Amy Sisson.

The Rev. Jo Ann Weeks, vicar of Grace, Moreno Valley, was gifted with hand-painted vestments "in gratitude for ... her many years of service as chaplain to the Daughters in the Diocese of Los Angeles," said Budzowski, a member of the church-wide DOK council.

Mikaela Sesler, Alethia Winley, and Tesia Winley have been selected to represent Girls' Friendly Society in the Diocese of Los Angeles. The girls will assist at meetings and presentations, participate in music presented by Triennial musician Linda Patterson, and work at the GFS booth in the Exhibit Hall.

### Keeping track of General Convention

Diocesan development officer, the Rev. Lorenzo Lebrija is slated to anchor "Inside General Convention," a daily TV broadcast beginning July 3, aimed at both humanizing and illuminating the workings of General Convention.

Aided by a team of reporters, "we go live at 4:30 p.m. Central time in English and 6:30 Central time in Spanish," Lebrija told The Episcopal News. A one-minute daily segment, "What to Look for Today" will air each morning.

Lebrija, a former journalist, said his first experience of convention in Salt Lake

City in 2015 "was a hoot to watch and be a part of." It inspired him to want to tell the church's story "and "to bring that wonder of people gathered together to do mundane tasks all while seeking to discern where the Holy Spirit might be edging us along."

The Rev. Canon Eric Law, founder and executive director of the Kaleidoscope Institute, and also an exhibitor at General Convention, will also be featured in a July 6 Facebook Live teaching session on issues of racial reconciliation.

Law, along with the Very Rev. Kelly Brown Douglas, dean of the Episcopal Divinity School at Union Theological Seminary (EDS), and Bishop Jeff Fisher, regional bishop of the Eastern Region of the Diocese of Texas, will share their experiences of doing racial justice work in the Episcopal Church.

View the session at [www.facebook.com/episcopal.divinity.school](https://www.facebook.com/episcopal.divinity.school) at 12:30 p.m. Central Time, or 10:30 p.m. PDT.

Additionally, Canon Janet Kawamoto, Episcopal News editor, will file daily reports from General Convention, focusing on the Los Angeles deputation. All regular subscribers to the Episcopal News Update weekly newsletter will receive the updates. To subscribe, visit [www.episcopalnews.com](https://www.episcopalnews.com) and select "Contact/Subscribe." †

# Peace. Prayer. Productivity: St. Augustine's Church takes care of business at 'day monastery'



KATIE CADIGAN

'Jesus is our co-worker' in experiment begun in Santa Monica

By Pat McCaughan

When Dennis Doherty found working from his West Los Angeles home too distracting and isolating, he went to coffee shops and even the local IHOP.

Then he heard about The Divine Office (TDO) at St. Augustine by-the-Sea Episcopal Church in Santa Monica, California, a few miles away. It blends monastic-style spirituality and the secular phenomenon of creative coworking spaces.

Initially, "I wondered, what's all this prayer business?" Doherty told Episcopal News Service during a recent telephone interview. "Then I decided, well, if this is the price I have to pay for having a quiet place to work, I'll check it out."

The Rev. Katie Cadigan, associate rector and TDO founder, views it as a "micro-monastic community" operating in underutilized rooms on St. Augustine's campus.

With growing numbers of people working remotely, Cadigan hoped the church's location — a few blocks from the Pacific Ocean — and its available space would draw from the area's boom in younger, home-based professionals.

Funded, in part, through a \$40,000 Episcopal Church New Church Start grant last year, TDO is "like a WeWork or like the people who work in Starbucks independently," but whose participants pray several times daily, Cadigan said.

"This is kind of like a day monastery, where people will come to work and worship," she said.

"Instead of going off to a monastery, having a wonderful retreat and coming home and realizing, after a day, a week, all that good feeling and connection is gone, what if we brought monastery-like experiences into our everyday world? What if we wrapped and enveloped our work lives in prayer?"

Bishop Suffragan Diane Jardine Bruce, a TDO adviser, said the idea immediately intrigued her. "Peo-

ple working from their homes can be and feel so isolated, which is the opposite of what Jesus modeled in being in community," she said.

"The Divine Office offers a space in which people can come together and connect — it is a holy space and time."

The Rev. Thomas Brackett, Episcopal Church manager for church planting and mission development, said TDO's application captured the imagination of reviewers from the Genesis Advisory Group on Church Planting by saying basically, "We believe that a rhythm of life blesses anybody who engages this."



Katie Cadigan

"And, instead of waiting for people to come and learn our prayer book or the Daily Office, we want to take it to them in ways that are meaningful to them."

And that it's a work in progress.

"They said from the very beginning, we don't know what that is going to look like yet, but if you are willing to venture with us, we're going to figure it out and we will let you know what we learn," Brackett said.

## A work in progress

Doherty is among at least a dozen TDO "co-creators" who meet once, sometimes twice weekly and who take turns leading intervals of morning, noon-day and closing prayers.

Another member of the group, Deborah Kaufman Giordano, president and founder of Healthcare Recruiting Inc. especially appreciated that "not everything needed to be perfect to start this community plant. ... We didn't have to have it all figured out on day one."

While at times working with laptops on card tables and spotty internet has a rough-around-the-edges feel, the collective wisdom of the group of writers, filmmakers, editors (continued next page)

At top: Christopher Curzon, IT consultant (left), and Dennis Doherty, founder of DohertyTech GOSLYN (right), are two of more than a dozen co-creators of The Divine Office.



and others is rewarding, said Giordano, who is married to actor James Giordano, of “Twin Peaks” fame.

“TDO is making a huge difference in my life, and holds the potential of making a big difference in the lives of others ... by balancing our work lives with our God-lives,” Giordano said. “This isn’t a space where we are trying to convert anyone. We never ever proselytize. But ... I’m working on not compartmentalizing God, not pushing God into a box where I only reflect on Him maybe once a week, in Sunday worship. It gives me hope.”

Currently, the group meets on Thursdays and some Tuesdays. Eventually, the goal is to expand to five days a week.

The days begin with 9 a.m. Morning Prayer and have fallen into a rhythm of morning prayers and a lifting up of daily intentions.

A bell chimes at noon to signal worship, and everyone “puts down the laptop,” Cadigan said. “They do not finish the email they were typing. Just like monks way back when would not finish their calligraphy. They would put down the pen, and at the sound of the bell, go into the chapel and do prayer meditation.”

Noonday prayers are a “kind of check-in, a where we’re at right now vis-à-vis what we’d prayed for in the morning ... and people are in gratitude,” Giordano said.

Lunch is fluid; some people bring sack meals. Others walk the four blocks to the Santa Monica Pier or to local restaurants. Closing prayers are typically at around 4 p.m. — “the group decides when ... and the prayers are more around reintegrating with the world or family or what’s next on the horizon,” Cadigan said.

She joins the group for their regular prayer intervals, but “I have never, ever led prayer,” Cadigan said. “My role is as a visionary and a shepherd. The challenge is, how do I grow this organically and listen to the Spirit, so the gifts people have in the community can rise up and flourish in the ways the Spirit calls them to grow.”

The TDO’s pattern is a modern-day take on the traditional daily round of prayer known as the Divine Office, the Liturgy of the Hours, or the Daily Office, which has been practiced since the earliest days of the Christian church. The practice has

its roots in the ancient Jewish custom of offering prayers and psalms periodically throughout the day.

Doherty, a distributor for restaurant environmental waste management systems, said he usually schedules his workweek around TDO, and spends his time there invoicing clients and responding to emails.

“The good news is, the prayer has become very important to me. It’s not the price to pay for having a quiet place to work,” he told ENS during a telephone interview from Ireland, where he was vacationing. “Prayer is really part of the appeal and the value ... so it’s pretty exciting.”

### Jesus as a co-worker

Cadigan, 56, began the TDO startup in August 2017, recruiting Giordano, 53, and Doherty, 64, both St. Augustine’s members.

Over time, and with a more reliable internet connection, Cadigan anticipates that gradually TDO’s reach will expand, she hopes, to a broader base, “since the nature of independent work is that you are not showing up every day.”

For example, “there’s a writer who’s now in Atlanta, a filmmaker who just got back from several months in Cambodia filming, and another one in Boston editing, so the day-to-day makeup is a bit more fluid.”

There are also physical plant and financial issues: a future building renovation is planned, and plans are in the works for that more reliable internet access as well as a campaign to raise the additional \$220,000 needed to finance it all. Eventually, a membership fee will be charged to help defray those costs.

Unanticipated, but necessary additions will include “phone booths” for private calls and even a shower. “The first week, we had a guy go swimming and then come up and work,” Cadigan recalled, chuckling. “So, we discovered we’re going to need a shower ... and a feeding station.”



Madeline Stewart, storyteller and community builder, co-leads a prayer and meditation service.

KATIE CADIGAN

She also discovered that “a good number of people who work and worship with us for just one or two days experience a spiritually meaningful shift of some sort and emerge seeing The Divine Office as a community to participate in on a more infrequent basis than I had originally envisioned.”

This “unexpected rhythm is ... stretching us to conceive of membership as something far broader than initially assumed. And a new dimension of discernment opens up for us around how we go about creating a cohesive community with far wider and more fluid edges than anticipated,” she said.

Eventually, she hopes the model of being a cloister in and of the world will be replicable “in any denomination, any space.”

“The way we think about monasteries is, they’re places you go away to,” she said. “You go to get your spirituality fix, but in the life of a monastic, the work and prayer is all integrated.”

So, TDO is reclaiming the experience of the monastic, “milking cows and praying, writing your emails and you’re praying — and, as we Episcopalians like to say, praying shapes believing.”

We need places like The Divine Office to help us all to daily grow into discipleship, Cadigan added, quoting Giordano: “Jesus is our co-worker, sitting right beside us for every email, every phone call, every everything.” †

*The Rev. Canon Pat McCaughan, correspondent for The Episcopal News, also writes for Episcopal News Service, where this article first appeared.*

# St. Barnabas' Church concludes parish ministry after 104 years in Eagle Rock

**a**n Episcopal congregation that built a handsome English Gothic church and filled it with a notable series of stained-glass windows, nurtured the man who founded the World War II Navajo Code Talkers, harbored a Polish refugee family and endured for nearly a century without its own parking lot celebrated its final Eucharist on June 10 with sadness, but also with pride for its long history of ministry.

By Janet Kawamoto

Declining membership and a lack of funds forced the closure of St. Barnabas' Church as a regularly worshipping congregation, although the property, located at Chickasaw and Caspar avenues in the Eagle Rock neighborhood of Los Angeles, will remain as a diocesan facility that will serve the neighborhood with ministries yet to be determined.

"The people and leaders of this historic parish have served faithfully and well for many years, loving and caring for their neighbor, comforting the sick, baptizing and burying, laughing and crying, and participating in eternal Resurrection," Bishop John Harvey Taylor told *The Episcopal News*.

"Their individual pilgrimages in Christ have not come to an end even as the parish, as currently constituted, ceases active ministry. We have no plans to sell the church or its properties. Instead, we will listen for word from the Holy Spirit, through which all things are being made new."

The Rev. Canon Lynn Jay, who with a team of clergy has led the congregation since the departure of its last rector about four years ago, reassured assembled members that ministry in some form would go on at the church they have loved.

After the service, Jay told *The News*, "The rumors were rampant, that this was going to be a coffee house, it was going to be a shelter — you know, those would be good, I suppose — but it's going to continue in some respect."

For example, Jay said, the preschool that has long used classrooms in the parish house will continue at St. Barnabas'.

"The rectory is being used as a sober-living house," she said. And there's a little house around the corner that they own, a little yellow house, that's being used as a counseling center — so the building's



JANET KAWAMOTO

being used. And the parish hall's lovely. There are two kitchens, one downstairs and one upstairs." The facilities are in need of repair, she added, but could certainly be renovated and used by other ministries.

Jay and her team, which for the past few years has included two priests — the Rev. Lucinda (Cindy) Voien and the Rev. Dorothy Torrey — and a deacon, the Rev. Dina Fulgoni, have done whatever they can to help St. Barnabas' remaining members look forward to joining other congregations. The most likely destinations, Jay said, are St. Mark's Church, Glendale; Church of the Angels, Pasadena; and All Saints Church, Highland Park (Los Angeles).

For Karen Morgan, senior warden, the closing of St. Barnabas' ends a long family tradition.

"I feel sad," she said. "My daughter is fourth-generation here and that makes it very hard."

During her childhood Morgan was a member of the children's choir and the parish's chapter of Girls Friendly Society. "I pretty much grew up here," she said. In more recent years, Morgan has been a vestry member, clergy of the vestry, junior warden as well as senior warden at St. Barnabas.

The remaining members, she said, are mostly over 65. "I'm one of the youngest," she noted.

"We just don't have the money any more. We can't support a priest," she said.

"This is a group of people who have loved each other for a very long time, and they love their parish church," said Voien, who has assisted at St. Barnabas' while also serving a congregation in Bakersfield, in the Diocese of San Joaquin. "This is the only church I've ever served where every single person walks out of the sanctuary and into the coffee hour. Nobody blows it off. Sometimes people go out to breakfast together."

It's likely, she said, that the (continued next page)

*At top:* Lynn Jay, who has served St. Barnabas' Church along with a team of other retired clergy for the past four years, greets parishioners and friends at the parish's final Eucharist on June 10.





Above: The team of clergy who have led St. Barnabas' Church for several years celebrate its final Eucharist on June 10. From left are Dorothy Torrey, Cindy Voien, Lynn Jay and Deacon Dina Fulgoni. Above right: St. Barnabas' English Gothic church has stood in Eagle Rock since 1924. At right: Crucifer Bud Ilic bears the cross out of the church for the last time.



members will find ways to continue their fellowship even if they join different congregations. "I think if they do end up worshipping in different places, there may be a lunch bunch that will get together — another way of renewing friendships," she said.

### A century of service

St. Barnabas had its beginnings in the early years of the 20th century as a small group of Episcopalians who met in a Masonic temple in Eagle Rock under the leadership of the Rev. William E. Mason, whose successor, the Rev. Robert Renison, led the congregation to financial security and mission status in the Diocese of Los Angeles. In 1915 they built a small frame church at Norwalk Avenue and Ellenwood Drive.

Already outgrowing their small church by 1920, the congregation bought a parcel of land nearby. Architect William Major designed a Craftsman Tudor-style rectory, and by 1924 the new church itself was built and welcoming worshippers.

The next year the congregation suffered a tragedy when Renison, its vicar, was struck by a car and killed while crossing a busy street. His youngest son, the Rev. George Edward Renison, left his parish in Missouri to take over his father's work in Eagle Rock. He was succeeded in turn by his son-in-law, the Rev. Samuel Sayre, husband of his daughter Marjorie.

During Sayre's 22-year tenure, the congregation built a two-story parish hall with classrooms, the rector's office, two full kitchens and a choir room, in addition

to a sexton's cottage. The only amenity it lacked was a parking lot — for the church's entire history, parishioners have had to compete for street parking on Sundays with parishioners from the much larger Catholic church a block away.

Sayre also led efforts to install a series of stained-glass windows, created by Judson Studios, depicting the life of Jesus. The windows are included in an index of Judson's finest artistic creations. Some 30 years later, the original craftsman, John Rundstrom, oversaw the restoration of those windows, which had been damaged by wind, sun and rain.

One of St. Barnabas' parishioners during Sayer's tenure was Philip Johnston, a son of missionaries to a Navajo reservation who after their retirement settled in Eagle Rock and joined the parish. Johnston, a World War I Army veteran, had grown up speaking the complex unwritten Navajo language, and during World War II it was he who suggested to a general of the United States Marines that Navajo might be the basis for a code the enemy couldn't possibly break. The result was the now-famous Navajo Code Talkers, who are credited with helping the Allies win the war.

During the 1980s, the congregation sponsored a Polish refugee family that had been expelled from the communist nation for political activism. Marek and Anna Wojitas and their 7-year-old daughter Annetta were established in the renovated sexton's cottage, where they lived for two years with support from the parish until they were



PHOTO / JANET KAWAMOTO

ready to rent an apartment nearby.

In the 1990s, led by the Rev. Alan Scarfe, ninth rector, the congregation joined with other Eagle Rock churches to establish a nightly feeding program for the poor and elderly of the area. Scarfe also introduced the concept of "total ministry," a lay training program, to the congregation, and eventually to the diocese. Scarfe was elected in 2002 as bishop of Iowa, where he still serves.

Subsequent rectors have included the Rev. Tom Discavage and the Rev. Fran Cantella, a former parishioner who studied in Scarfe's ministry formation program and was eventually ordained to the diaconate and priesthood. She retired in 2014. ✝

*Historical material for this story was drawn from "Affectionate Memories of St. Barnabas," written by parishioners.*



JOHN HARVEY TAYLOR

## Bishop 'Sammy' Azariah shares episcopal duties in the Diocese of L.A.

From Long Beach to Lompoc, Bishop Assisting Samuel Azariah baptizes and confirms Southland Episcopalians and playfully asks congregations for a show of hands if they've "ever seen a Pakistani bishop before."

The soft-spoken Azariah told the Episcopal News recently he likes to ask because "I look so different. Everybody's interested in looking at me and hearing from me."

"I tell them who I am and what my background is and where is my faith based and how it has grown, and how I have grown in my faith and experienced this ministry with passion."

### 'Who I am'

He is the retired moderator of the Church of Pakistan, the result of the 1970 union of Anglicans, Methodists, Lutherans and Scottish Presbyterians in a nation where Christians number about 2.5 million, or about 1.6 percent of the population. Of those, approximately half are Roman Catholic in the majority-Muslim country.

Elected the church's youngest bishop in 1987, he moved from Karachi's bustling metropolis to Raiwind, "the smallest diocese," with about ten rural congregations and "no money, no programs, no infrastructure."

Undeterred, throughout his 20-year episcopacy Azariah built a cathedral, started schools, ministries, and health care facilities, initiated ground-breaking

interfaith programs, rescued victims of sex trafficking and blasphemy laws, and endured institutionalized persecution with grace and reconciliation.

Conversant in English, Urdu and Punjabi, he now hopes to learn Spanish. He has traveled the world, lived on several continents, served on international councils, hosted archbishops of Canterbury in his home, and last year was awarded the Hubert Walter Award for Reconciliation and Interfaith Cooperation by current Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby.

Most of that would not have happened, he believes, without the partnership of the Rev. Khushnud Mussarat Azariah, the first Pakistani woman ordained a priest and his wife of 40 years, and their experiences of the crippling poverty, unassailable hope and deep faith of his flock.

### 'What my background is'

Azariah's "ministry with passion" began more than 7,700 miles and a continent away, in the southern part of Pakistan. He was born in Karachi in 1949 to young parents who so desperately longed for their first child to be a son they promised God to dedicate him to the church.

"That's how I got my name, Samuel, from the story of Samuel; 'Here am I, send me.'" Early dreams of becoming an airline pilot dissolved into a love for the church that led him to ministry and, ultimately, to the Diocese of Los Angeles where he has served two congregations and as an assisting bishop.

"I've been on a journey. It wasn't something like what happened to St. Paul, a sudden thing, but more a systematic development and growth of faith and interest in the life of the church."

After undergraduate studies in sociology and urban development at St. Patrick's College in Karachi, he was set to attend seminary at the Near East School of Theology in Beirut, Lebanon, when war broke out.

Instead, he went to Trinity Theological College in Singapore where he met Khushnud Mussarat, also a theology student. Ordained in the Diocese of Los Angeles in 2009, she is the vicar of St. George's Church in Riverside.

After his 1980 ordination to the priesthood, Azariah served as curate of St. Andrew's, Karachi, which he humorously calls a testament to "church unity." The mostly Methodist congregation met in a formerly Scottish Lutheran Church and was led by an Anglican. In 1987, he was elected Bishop of Raiwind and 10 years later became the Church of Pakistan's moderator, for the first of two terms as its presiding bishop.

He has also served as bishop-in-charge of St. Clare's, Rancho Cucamonga, where Canon Gisele Tackoor remembers his upbeat sermons, pastoral sensitivity, hopeful encouragement and steady guidance as the congregation *(continued next page)*

'My life, my passion, commitment, joy, hope and my challenge is the church'

By Pat McCaughan

Bishop John Harvey Taylor snaps a selfie with Khushnud and Samuel Azariah, with Melissa McCarthy, canon to the ordinary, during a June meeting in his office at the Cathedral Center.



merged with St. Mark's Church in Upland in 2015.

"He was warm, kind, gentle, interesting, had a good sense of humor, was classy. I can't say enough good things about him," recalls Tackoor, who was senior warden at the time.

"He was delightful to be around and we all looked forward to seeing him when he would return from his duties in Pakistan. We didn't know he was an archbishop until much later."

Currently, Azariah calls St. Peter's Church, Rialto, a "home base" and serves there as bishop-in-charge on Sundays when he isn't visiting congregations on behalf of Bishop Diocesan John Harvey Taylor. He describes it as a lively, lovely and growing congregation with lots of possibility.

"He gives me a lot of opportunity to learn and grow," said St. Peter's associate priest, the Rev. Barrett Van Buren.

"It's been a great experience working with him. He loves the church. He loves the community and he's dedicated to making sure the people's needs are met. And the people love him. They enjoy his charisma, his interest, his passion and his wit. He's got a great sense of humor."

### 'Where my faith is based'

Serving among the extremely impoverished and the persecuted taught him "faith in the very simple things," and the importance of unity, according to Azariah.

With compassion and humility, he built bridges with those trapped in the sex industry, women who initially balked even at meeting with him for fear of condemnation.

"They were mostly Christian women (and often) ... circumstances had forced them into a situation of that nature. But God wouldn't want them to starve," Azariah said.

The nation's constitution bars Christians and other non-Muslim minorities from holding political office, even from employment beyond menial labor. They are frequent targets of blasphemy laws and physical attacks.

He recalled invitations to dinner with parishioners, mostly in tiny, windowless mud houses "like a box. Animals were also there."

On one such occasion, "dinner was a glass of water and one boiled egg." On an-

other, the meal was a piece of warm *chapatti*, a pita-like bread, with garlic, lemon and mustard oil to drizzle over it.

And yet, Azariah said: "I felt so good about it. It was not what I was eating or drinking. It was the love I was getting, the great faith I got which was amazing beyond my expectations. I've experienced the faith in very simple things."

Once, when he was hosting Archbishop of Canterbury Robert Runcie, an elderly, bent-over woman motioned to Azariah to tell Runcie to bow to her.

The people "had never seen a white archbishop of Canterbury and he had arrived in a big car with a police escort." When Runcie bowed, the elderly woman laid hands on his head and blessed him.

"He cried," Azariah recalled. "He said, 'nobody has done this ever to me. I have laid my hands on many people. But this mother has laid her hands on me.'"

### 'How my faith has grown'

Establishing two schools for the mentally challenged — Dar-ul-Kushnud (home of Happiness) in Karachi, serving 150 students and another in Lahore, Dar-ul-Mussarat (happiness) — was inspired by a mentally challenged sister-in-law, he said.

And the schools themselves were an inspiration, successfully training many students thought incapable of learning. That ministry taught Azariah the beauty of simple, direct, honest love.

"We learned a lot. The thing we learned from these children was honesty," he said. "We learned to see the real divinity inside them. They are very loving."

Similarly, he built bridges among the most unlikely of groups, creating a week-long retreat connecting radical Muslim clerics with Christian clergy.

"There is a lot of religious prejudice," he said. "We cannot eat in the same place. We cannot stay in the same place."

And yet the group found commonalities in prayer, meals and conversation. So much so that now, "whenever we as Christians have difficulty and problems in our community, some of these religious leaders would help us. It was a step forward in our understanding of the new commandment."

He even resorted to real-life cloak-and-dagger tactics to spirit a youngster out of the country to safety.

"I've been on a journey. It wasn't something like what happened to St. Paul, a sudden thing, but more a systematic development and growth of faith and interest in the life of the church."

— Bishop "Sammy" Azariah

What began as a disagreement between two 10-year-olds quickly escalated into a death sentence. One was the son of a Muslim cleric. The other was a Christian. They fought, and the Christian youngster was charged, found guilty of blasphemy and sentenced to death.

"I was so emotional when it happened," Azariah recalled. "I talked to him and said, we will see what we can do to help you. And he said to me, 'Bishop Sammy, why are you worried? If we have to die for Jesus Christ, we will die.'"

After an appeal, a higher court acquitted the youth. Azariah, fearful the boy could still be targeted and possibly even killed, arranged to fly him out of the country. But the pilot refused to fly them, and Azariah found someone to drive him instead.

"He was released in the middle of the night," he recalled. "The driver drove like a madman. We changed cars, bribed police, drove 300 miles the same night. As we passed the village where the young boy's mother lived, he wanted to stop and say goodbye to her. But we weren't able to. We took him and his uncle to Islamabad and got them out of the country the next day."

### 'Ministry with passion'

Sometimes, on pastoral visits to congregation, he is asked about the contextual differences between the Pakistan and U.S. churches, regarding sexual orientation, and issues including women's empowerment.

Regarding sexual orientation, he believes: "Let God decide. Who are we to decide what is sin? God is not bothered with who's sleeping with whom. I doubt that is God's main agenda at the moment."

In July, he and Khushnud will celebrate 40 years of marriage and ministry together. They are both supportive and proud of the accomplishments of the couple's three daughters: (continued on page 18)

# Troy Elder continues ministry in new role as legal advocate for immigrants, refugees



LORENZO LEBRUA

Former bishop's legate for Global Partnerships will aid refugees with psychiatric challenges

By Pat McCaughan

Troy Elder took part in a number of actions in support of refugees and immigrants during his tenure as bishop's legate for Global Partnerships, beginning in 2014.

**B**ishop's Legate for Global Partnerships Troy Elder has spent the past four years building bridges on behalf of the Diocese of Los Angeles, advocating for unaccompanied minors, detainees, and comprehensive immigration reform.

Now he is engaging that struggle on another front.

The human rights attorney concluded his diocesan staff ministry several weeks ago and has begun working full-time for the Immigrant Defenders Law Center (IDLC) ([www.immdef.org](http://www.immdef.org)), a nonprofit organization that defends immigrants of all nationalities against systemic injustice.

"I will be back in court, working up at the detention centers," Elder told The Episcopal News recently. "I feel like it's a natural next step to some of the immigration advocacy and human rights work with Central American migrant children I've been involved with since 2014."

He had just attended a June 11 farewell party in his honor at his last official meeting as diocesan staff liaison to the Program Group on Global Partnerships (PGGP), an association he plans to continue as a volunteer.

"I've been hired to work on special projects for immigrants with severe psychiatric disabilities," he said. "I've been out of active law practice for the last four years and I've been itching to get back into the fray and use my legal skills. And then this opportunity came up."

During Elder's tenure as staff liaison for PGGP, the group pioneered a program that connected Southland youth with their Pakistani counterparts, and established Los Acompañeros, which provides support and encouragement to unaccompanied minors, children who made their way without adults through Mexico from Central America to the United States, in search of a better life.

The Rev. Pat O'Reilly, PGGP chair, said Elder energized the program group and "has given us a standard we need to live up to in terms of how we involve ourselves in global ministry."

"He has put the whole idea of accompaniment and listening to our overseas partners at front and center, so we don't just go in and do our own project.

Instead, we listen to what they need, to what they want, and they come up with their solutions and we see how we can be part of that," said O'Reilly, who serves at St. George's Church, Hawthorne.

"But mostly, we are in relationship with them, so they enrich our lives and we enrich their lives, just by being together as Christians in a global setting.

"I'm so glad we're not going to lose him one hundred percent. We really need a staff person to deal with global issues because we're such a key diocese in this country. "

## Exploring Partnerships: Guinea and Kenya

O'Reilly said Elder has already visited the African nations of Guinea and Kenya, to lay the groundwork for developing projects.

"We were given \$100,000 to build a school in a predominantly Muslim country, a school for girls," O'Reilly said. The PGGP is working with the Rt. Rev. Jacques Boston, bishop of Guinea and Guinea Bissau, to develop the school in the predominantly Muslim country.

PGGP is carrying on the work of Canon Percia Hutcherson, a physical therapist and missionary who on her frequent medical missions to Eldoret, Kenya, treated many people with orthopedic disorders. When Hutcherson died January 9, 2018, the PGGP became involved in her ministry to the disabled, O'Reilly said.

In 1990, the late Anglican Bishop Muge invited Hutcherson to serve as a missionary and, along with diocesan staff, to develop a community-based approach to treating those with disabilities. That work led to creation of Changing Lives Foundation ([www.changinglivesinternational.org](http://www.changinglivesinternational.org)), and establishment of six clinics.

PGGP sponsored a memorial service for Hutcherson June 23 at the Cathedral Center of St. Paul, attended by Eldoret Bishop Christopher Kiprugut Rutto and the Rev. Evelyn Jerotich Mulwo.

The PGGP also supports partnerships in the Greater Middle East, in Jerusalem and Pakistan, Haitian schools, and with the Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand.

*(continued next page)*



O'Reilly said the PGGP's approach is more of an accompaniment role with various ongoing projects. Others include the Conejo Compassion Coalition, involved in Haiti, Puerto Rico and Uganda, as well as the diocese's companion relationship with the Diocese of Cuernavaca in Mexico.

Additionally, the group is involved with refugees outside of the United States. O'Reilly explained that while the sanctuary movement deals with the refugee crisis in the United States, "there are a lot of refugees coming from Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala, to Mexico. Often they are exploited and abused. We are working with supporting and advocating with people who run shelters for unaccompanied youth and other vulnerable refugees in Mexico."

### Justice work in Los Angeles, Haiti

O'Reilly said she recently heard from a teen-aged girl she befriended and encouraged through Los Acompañeros.

She "had come from El Salvador as a teen. She lived in gang territory. A child next door to her was murdered. She had been abandoned by her father; her mother was here. When she first arrived, she was so insecure, having nightmares. She didn't know a word of English.

She now is a legal resident. "She is confident, beautiful and she just graduated from Bell High School," O'Reilly said. "She contacted me to ask me to come to her graduation because I was really important to her."

Elder's previous work in Jeremy, Haiti — prior to his tenure with the Los Angeles diocese — led to the establishment of a law clinic "because there are no public defenders in Haiti, so people just languish in horrendous jails," O'Reilly said. "The clinic is a lifeline for so many people."

She described Elder as "committed, intelligent, always thinking ahead and recognizing the legal and financial implications of everything we do. He knows how to maintain and promote relationships globally, which is really tremendous. He is a person of deep compassion and works so hard.

"He's just been amazing. We would not be where we are if it weren't for Troy. Troy has really made us a global partnership. Before, we each were people on the committee interested in particular areas and would relate to each other about our area and then we'd have a conference once a year, but

most of the people that attended were us.

### A life of service, advocacy

Elder is "grateful" for his tenure at the diocese and working with two bishops diocesan, Jon Bruno and John Taylor.

There is a special connection between the diocese and IDLC, he added; Bishop Bruno provided a \$200,000 loan to aid the nonprofit's start-up about three years ago.

"It's my understanding that when the folks, the attorneys at the Catholic legal services, Esperanza, decided to strike out on their own ... Bishop Bruno made them a \$200,000 loan. It's a nice connection. There is a Bishop Bruno conference room in the office downtown," he said.

Elder, a 1995 Yale Law School graduate, said he is profoundly grateful for the opportunities of the past four years and is eagerly anticipating continuing the relationship.

Prior to coming to the diocese, Elder, 49, was admitted to the bar in New York in 1996, in Paris in 1999, and in Florida in 2001. He was clinical associate professor of law at Florida International University College of Law in Miami, where he founded Miami's first public, law-school based legal aid clinic representing torture victims, asylum seekers and neglected juvenile immigrants, among others.

A Michigan native, he holds a bachelor of arts in political science and French from the University of Michigan, having also earned a certificate and high honors from the Université d'Aix-Marseille II. He speaks fluent French and Spanish, and conversational Haitian Creole. He also holds a master of arts in religion (ethics) from Yale Divinity School.

"I look forward to continuing in a new capacity the important work of world mission for this diocese, which has really been thriving in recent years under the leadership of the Rev. Pat O'Reilly," said Elder, who is married to the Rev. Lorenzo Lebrija, diocesan development officer.

Elder knows he faces an uphill battle. Many detainees, except for those with mental disabilities, don't have the right to bring a lawyer with them to court proceedings.

"These people are incompetent to stand trial, incapable to defend themselves and I'm ... basically serving as a court-appointed lawyer in a narrow-type case we hope to expand," he said.

"I'm proud and privileged to be part of a relatively new group of attorneys for some of the most vulnerable members of our society in cases that are really life and death for them and for their families and those in their community who love them." — Troy Elder

"I'm proud and privileged to be part of a relatively new group of attorneys for some of the most vulnerable members of our society in cases that are really life and death for them and for their families and those in their community who love them.

"The cases I am working on, folks with several psychiatric disabilities at risk of deportation, face certain death if they are returned. It is tantamount to torture."

Acknowledging the challenging context of his work, Elder said he and his colleagues at IDLC "are working very closely with Southern California legislators and others at the national level in an attempt to respond to scandalous actions that this government is taking, in terms of ripping babies out of their mother's arms."

The office also organized a rally in front of City Hall recently to protest recent actions by border patrol in separating families. Protestors were asked to bring their children. "It was a very powerful statement."

"You're taking someone's child," said Elder, referring to the border patrol's actions. "It is outrageous and horrific and this society will live to regret it because kids ripped from families — the data's out there — will have a huge uphill battle.

"It is a challenging context in which to resume this work but one to which I feel privileged and humbled to be called and maintain a foot in my environment of the ministries of global partnership and world mission that are so robust.

Speaking of his new position, Elder said, "I'm rejoining this fray at a very critical and difficult time. In addition to children's [issues], the attorney general proclaimed we weren't going to recognize victims of domestic abuse. It's been a really sobering and challenging first couple of weeks to hit the ground in this very oppressive and uphill-road posture." †

## REQUIESCAT



◆ The Rev. Congreve Hamilton Quinby, former vicar of St. Joseph's Church, Buena Park (1958–1962), former rector of Christ the Good Shepherd Church, Los Angeles (1962–1978), and a tireless social justice warrior, died June 14 at his home in Burlington, Vermont, under hospice care. He was 89. Survivors include his wife, Constance, their two daughters, a sister and sister-in-law, and three grandchildren. Services will be held at 4 p.m. on Saturday, June 30 at St. Paul's Cathedral, Burlington. After leaving the Diocese of Los Angeles in 1978, Quinby served congregations in Kansas City, Missouri, and Potsdam, New York. He served in the United States Navy during the Korean Conflict as a naval intelligence officer, achieving the rank of Lieutenant, junior grade.



◆ The Rev. Elizabeth Stingley, retired vicar of St. Hilary's Church, Hesperia, died June 18 in Texas. She was 80. Service details are pending; interment will be at Arlington National Cemetery with her husband Patrick Stingley, a career Marine officer who died in 2004 after 48 years of marriage. Survivors include daughter

Kathleen and son Patrick. Stingley served at St. Hilary's from 1992 to 2009; previously she assisted at St. Paul's, Lancaster. She was a chaplain at Antelope Valley Hospital and Medical Center and later at Victor Valley Global Medical Center in Victorville. Before ordination she taught music in Pennsylvania public schools and was an organist, choir director and handbell choir director for a Lutheran church and a synagogue.



◆ The Rev. Canon Richard Alden Wagner, former Air Force pilot, retired vicar of St. Alban's Church, Yucaipa, and a longtime member of the Program Group on Missions and Diocesan Council, died June 10 at the age of 80. A service was held on June 23 at Trinity Church, Redlands. Survivors include his wife, Joan; their children Dede Lehmkuhl, Richard Wagner, Jr. (Lisa) and Matthew Wagner (Hannah); four grandchildren and one great-grandchild. Wagner served several congregations in the Diocese of Chicago, then was called as rector of All Saints Church, Vista, in the Diocese of San Diego before moving to the Diocese of Los Angeles to be vicar of St. Alban's in 2000. Bishop Jon Bruno named him a canon of the Cathedral Center of St. Paul in 2010. †

For full obituaries, visit [www.episcopalnews.com](http://www.episcopalnews.com)

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## AZARIAH (continued from page 15)

Anushua, a mental health therapist; Arusa, a certified public accountant, and Abana, a medical resident specializing in brain injury and rehabilitative medicine.

He shares a video he has just received via email. Secretly taped, it shows an attack on a priest during a worship service in the Church of South India. As the priest leads worship, a man assaults him. Bloodied but undeterred, the priest simply turns the other cheek, and continues to lead worship.

Learning not to fear persecution has also been a lesson of his decades of ministry, Azariah said. "We were not scared of it anymore," he said. "It also helped us understand the importance of loving our neighbor in spite of pain and hatred. We learned we have to win them over with love."

Grateful for the welcome and support he and his family have received in the Southland, he hopes Episcopalians here know of the faithfulness of their Pakistani counterparts — that "in our poverty, in our marginalization, in our hunger, we have done the best and contributed the most for our national development, the development of the wider community."

The population of the schools they started is about 80 percent Muslim students, he said. Because of unjust laws, "we've kept our children uneducated, and educated their children. We've kept our children undernourished and taken care of their children through our institutions of charity."

Mostly, he wants the Diocese of Los Angeles and others to know that Christians elsewhere in the world "are a long-suffering community. We have to recognize it. We cannot sugarcoat it."

Supporting Pakistani Muslims who are in the minority here is a two-way street, he believes.

"We must tell them, we fight for you, we stand for you, and we want you to tell your loved ones back, that they should fight for non-Muslims there. We cannot continue the sin of silence."

Still, he joyfully leads worship, visits congregations on behalf of Bishop Taylor, and is preparing for an upcoming visit by Bishop Suffragan Diane Jardine Bruce. He hopes to learn what Southland Episcopalians have to teach him, adding: "My life, my passion, commitment, joy, hope and my challenge is the church." †



## CONNECTIONS



◆ The Rev. **Kate Cress** will begin her new ministry as rector of St. James in-the-City Church, Los Angeles, in August. Most recently she was rector of Church of Our Savior in Somerset, Massachusetts, where she has served since her ordination in 2009. Previously she was a social scientist and teacher. She holds a doctorate in educational leadership from Harvard, a master of arts in education from Brown University, and a master of divinity degree from Boston University. She lived in Botswana for two years, three years in South Africa and Uganda, and two years in Korea.

◆ The Church of the Angels, Pasadena, honored the Rev. **Robert Gaestel** on his 35th anniversary as its rector June 17 with a gala brunch after church services. The congregation has named its parish hall in Gaestel's honor.

◆ The Rev. **Lauren Grubaugh** began serving as curate of Christ Church Cathedral in Indianapolis in June.

◆ **Mimi Grant** and **Bob Kelley**, parishioners at Trinity Church in Orange, were featured in the Spring 2018 issue of Good Samaritan Hospital's quarterly magazine, Good News. Grant and Kelley, a married couple, serve on the hospital's board.

◆ Bishop John Harvey Taylor named **Mary Alice "Mar" Jennings** an honorary canon of the Cathedral Center in May in recognition of her dedicated service to her parish of St. Matthew's, Pacific Palisades, and the Neighborhood Youth Association.

◆ The Very Rev. **Roberto Martinez**, vicar of Iglesia de la Magdalena, Glendale, and the Very Rev. **Fernando Valdes**, deacon and canon for operations at St. John's Cathedral, have been named co-deans for Deanery 4. They succeed the Very Rev. **Mark Weitzel**, rector of St. Mark's, Glendale, who has served as dean for several years, concluding with the deans' meeting of June 12.

◆ The Rev. **George Okusi** began serving as rector of St. John the Divine Church, Costa Mesa, in June. He previously was



CHRIS TUMILTY

## Seven ordained to diaconate at St. John's Cathedral

Bishop John Harvey Taylor ordained seven new transitional deacons in a service on June 2 at the Cathedral of St. John. Pictured above are new deacons (from left) Carole Lee Horton-Howe (St. George's, Laguna Hills), Antonio Jose Gallardo (All Saints, Pasadena), Laurel Eileen Coote (St. Cross, Hermosa Beach), Jennifer Lynne Wagner Pavia (St. Augustine's, Santa Monica), Sarah Anne Reynolds (Thad's, Santa Monica), Anil Virendra Shah (St. Paul's, Pomona) and Joseph Bradley Courtney (Holy Spirit, Silver Lake) with (at center back) Bishop Suffragan Diane Jardine Bruce, Bishop Taylor, Canon to the Ordinary Melissa McCarthy, and the Ven. Canon Charleen Crean, archdeacon. Preacher for the service was the Rev. Stefanie Wilson Brown, chaplain at Campbell Hall School, North Hollywood.

vicar of St. Thomas of Canterbury Church, Long Beach.

◆ The Rev. **Jorge Pallares Arellano** began serving as canon for congregation life at Christ Church Cathedral in Hartford, Connecticut, in June. He previously served at St. Luke's-of-the-Mountains Church, La Crescenta, and at St. Simon's Church, San Fernando.

◆ The Rev. **Sharon Sheffield** has been called as priest-in-charge of St. Thomas' Church, Long Beach. She previously served at St. Mark's, Downey.

◆ The Rev. **William Smyth Stanley** has been called as associate rector for pastoral care and adult formation at All Saints' Church, Beverly Hills, beginning July 8. He will conclude his ministry as associate rector at St. Cross Church, Hermosa Beach, on July 1.

◆ The Rev. **Stefanie Wilson Brown** will begin serving as an associate at St. Matthew's, Pacific Palisades, in August. She will conclude her ministries as Campbell

Hall chaplain and as part-time parish associate at St. Michael and All Angels, Corona del Mar, on Aug. 5. †



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# Good Samaritan Hospital remembers Bobby Kennedy

**G**ood Samaritan Hospital, an institution of the Diocese of Los Angeles, remembered Robert F. Kennedy on June 6, the 50th anniversary of his death at the hospital after he was shot at the Ambassador Hotel, where he had been celebrating his victory in the California primary election as he sought the nomination for president of the United States.

The Rev. Michael S. Bell, director of pastoral services, led the 20-minute service, at which Tom LaBonge, former Los Angeles city council member and longtime friend of the hospital, also spoke.

Bell described the tumult of the 1960s: "It could be said that our nation was divided and wounded, as well as inspired — divided over issues of race and rights, political polarization, use of deadly force and war, socio-economic justice, free speech, and trust in establishments once held in esteem — wounded by repetitive and sometimes overwhelming images and sounds



*At top:* Michael Bell, director of pastoral services at Hospital of the Good Samaritan, leads a program of remembrance for Robert F. Kennedy on June 6. *At right:* Tom LaBonge, former Los Angeles city councilman, helps Bell lay a wreath in Kennedy's honor.

of anger and violence, brutality and death domestically and abroad — inspired by people taking courageous stands against injustices, invoking powerful symbols of resistance. And our saturation with all this news was newly enabled by ever-evolving mass media technology.




PHOTOS / CHRIS TUMILTY

"It's an age-old battle between the debilitating forces of darkness and the transformative power of light. We remember this morning, as Kennedy did, that each day we have choice about where we put the focus of the best of our efforts and how to better demonstrate our love of our neighbors."

"Bobby Kennedy would want you to know about him, and it's important that you each find out about him and what he stood for as a person," said LaBonge. He described the 1960s as enduring "earthquake after earthquake" as the nation saw the assassinations of John F. Kennedy and Dr. Martin Luther King and was jolted by the civil rights movement and turmoil over the Vietnam War. "Why do we miss Bobby Kennedy so much?" LaBonge asked. "Because we need someone who brings people together, not separate them — who brings together all people from all places."

Bell and LaBonge laid a wreath in Kennedy's honor and Bell led a brief litany of remembrance. He concluded with a traditional Irish blessing: "May the road rise up to meet you. May the wind be always at your back. May the sun shine warm upon your face, the rains fall soft upon your fields. And until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of his hand." †

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